

#### Members

Sen. James Merritt, Chairperson  
Sen. David Ford  
Sen. Katie Wolf  
Sen. Allie Craycraft  
Rep. Robert Bischoff, Vice-Chairperson  
Rep. Richard Bodiker  
Rep. Phyllis Pond  
Rep. William Ruppel



## INDIANA STATE FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*Legislative Services Agency*  
200 West Washington Street, Suite 301  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789  
Tel: (317) 232-9588 Fax: (317) 232-2554

#### LSA Staff:

Susan Montgomery, Attorney for the Committee  
Bernadette Bartlett, Fiscal Analyst for the Committee

Authority: IC 15-1-1.5-4

### MEETING MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

Meeting Date:	October 19, 2000
Meeting Time:	1:00 P.M.
Meeting Place:	Board Room, Administration Building, Indiana State Fairgrounds, 1202 E. 38th Street,
Meeting City:	Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number:	2

**Members Present:** Sen. James Merritt, Chairperson; Sen. Katie Wolf; Rep. Richard Bodiker; Rep. William Ruppel.

**Members Absent:** Sen. David Ford; Sen. Allie Craycraft; Rep. Robert Bischoff, Vice-Chairperson; Rep. Phyllis Pond.

Senator Merritt, Chairperson of the Committee, called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. He turned the presentation over to William Stinson, Executive Director of the Indiana State Fair Commission, who presented the Committee with two handouts for review; Fairgrounds 2000-Indiana State Fair Update (Exhibit1) and Indiana State Fair Commission Staff Recommendations (Exhibit 2). Mr. Stinson told the Committee that on Saturday, October 21, 2000, President Clinton would be appearing at a rally for Representative Julia Carson at the Exposition Hall, open to the public. Mr. Stinson said that he was pleased that the rally would not have the hysteria attached to it of a rally for presidential candidates Bush or Gore, and the Fairgrounds staff was honored to be a part of it.

Mr. Stinson introduced Mark Hindsley, the Controller for the Indiana State Fair

---

<sup>1</sup> Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Commission, and Joy Rothrock, Support Services Director. The 2000 Fair broke attendance records for the third year in a row. The Fair was budgeted to make \$60,000 and is expected to exceed that amount when all the figures are in. The improvements to the Blue Ribbon Pavilion appeared to be appreciated by the public. The first Saturday set a record in that it was the first day ever when attendance was over 100,000.

Mr. Stinson commented that six to eight years ago, no one could have ever predicted that Fair attendance would be up to this extent. He expressed his gratitude to a large group of people, including the legislators comprising this Committee. Representative Ruppell agreed with his assessment, remarking that the Fair seems to have turned the corner. Mr. Stinson then discussed the Staff Recommendations. Plans include projects related to: for 2001, the west pavilion and the cattle barn; for 2002, plans to finish the cattle barn; and for 2003, the draft horse barn. In 2002, the Commission will need to incur debt in a conservative fashion.

In response to an inquiry from Chairperson Merritt, Mr. Stinson next discussed the earlier request from HSI Show Productions regarding renovation/rebuilding of the west and south pavilions. This could be a \$15 to 16 million dollar project. It appears that renovation will happen, not rebuilding. A problem with the concept of rebuilding is that if the building is down, there is no use and no revenue while the rebuilding is going on. The discussion on this item before the State Fair Commission at its last meeting lasted an hour and 15 minutes. Mr. Stinson commented that for the 2001 Fair, there will be extensive landscaping improvements to the north side of the Fairgrounds, and a rebuilding of the stage in front of the 4-H building.

Senator Wolf asked if the fact that schools are starting the fall term earlier has an effect on the Fair's attendance. Mr. Stinson believes that some schools give excused absences, but attendance by non-exhibitors may be cut the second week of the Fair. To offset that, the Fair gives many discounts and schedules more evening programs to attempt to draw in visitors who live close to the Marion County area. Purdue University generally starts the Monday after the Sunday end of the Fair, so many individuals involved in 4-H get little or no break. Mr. Stinson hopes to eventually use the Fair as a field trip for urban students. Representative Ruppel commented that a bill to allow an excused absence for exhibitors, much like that of legislative pages, might be an answer to any dilemma for exhibitors.

In answer to a question from Chairperson Merritt, Mr. Stinson stated that the 2002 plans are to raze the draft horse barn and rebuild it to the standard of the Blue Ribbon Pavilion. The building then would connect to the sheep barn to furnish 180,000 square feet of Grade A space. Concerning the swine barn, Mr. Stinson stated that because the sheep barn has become such an attractive structure, individuals involved in other activities want their area to be up to the same standard. He also commented that ISTE money will be used to repair the Fairgrounds fence using brick and wrought iron. It may be used to complement part of the Monon Trail and Fall Creek Trail.

Senator Wolf asked about the use of riverboat money distribution. Mr. Stinson said that the riverboat money has greatly helped to fund the Fairground activities. He reminded the Committee that the 1997 appropriation helped to pay for the sheep barn and that the 1999 money helped pay for the air-conditioning unit in the Pepsi Coliseum. For the first time, there were 4,000 to 5,000 people at once attending draft horse shows.

The Committee briefly discussed the recent "NFL Experience" exhibition, and acquisition of an arena football team at the Consecro Fieldhouse. Chairperson Merritt announced that this was Senator Wolf's last meeting, and thanked her for her service to the Committee. There being no further business, the Committee was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.